

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2010

The Honorable Sean Stackley
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
Research, Development & Acquisition
1000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Dear Secretary Stackley:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Lockheed Martin-led proposal for the pending Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) contract and would like to reiterate a few points made during the review process that we believe are critical as you enter the final stages of the selection process.

Lockheed Martin has maintained a large presence in our state for more than 50 years and we can attest to the highly-skilled, motivated and dedicated workforce that currently provides the Navy with Aegis combat system. New Jersey has a long tradition of fostering electronic and engineering innovation and encouraging business development, particularly in the defense industry. We have a proud tradition of supporting our military and the various installations throughout the state.

It is our belief that the LCS1 design presents the best option for the Navy and the best investment of federal taxpayer resources. According to Lockheed Martin, this design's traditional steel monohull allows the ship to be more affordably produced, provides for sustainability and survivability, and allows greater access to global ports given its shallow draft and narrow beam. We believe Austal's use of aluminum raises concerns over blast and fire survivability.

It is our understanding that the Navy is seeking to provide commonality with existing Navy surface ship combat systems and the expertise of those responsible for designing LCS1 could be a tremendous asset. If awarded the LCS contract, this design will allow for unprecedented interoperability with the Aegis combat system currently built in Moorestown and LCS will be able to interact and operate with numerous other Navy systems. The New Jersey team has designed, built, installed and tested Aegis or Aegis-based electronic systems for over 100 surface combatants including two domestic and six international ship classes. In addition to Aegis, LCS1's communication systems are common with those extensively deployed in the submarine fleet.

Co-location and common software will be beneficial to the Navy by lowering training cost and time. The synergy allows for fewer program specific testing hours, will reduce operator training cost and will provide the ability to cross-deck sailors.

The New Jersey LCS1 team is deeply involved in the design, development, production, test, installation, training and support of the Navy's front-line combat systems. Awarding the LCS contract to a prime contract that includes this team will bolster our national security by allowing them to retain and grow these national assets. The skills of the workforce and the advanced industrial capabilities in New Jersey would provide a valuable contribution to the Littoral Combat Ship program and its integrations with the existing Naval fleet.

We urge you to consider this request, consistent with the applicable laws, rules, and regulations governing such contract awards, and lend your full support to the LSC1 design. We are ready to assist you in any possible way as you consider this contract award.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

